(from President Rhee to President Eisenhower)

KYUNG MU DAI

April 9, 1953

Dear President Eisenhower:

I have often thought of writing you, but refrained from doing do for fear of encroaching upon your valuable time. The moment has come, however, when I have to inform you of what steps we must take regarding the Korean war situation.

I know without doubt the sincerity of your determination to settle the Korean war with honor as soon as possible. I know also that the opposition to your policy on the part of foreign powers, as well as of the peace-at-any-cost circles, is so strong that any administration might feel hampered and handicapped. Under this circumstance, the Korean people again suffer disappointment, although they are not disappointed with you but in the whole situation.

If this situation is allowed to continue, Korea cannot survive as an independent nation and it will be made another China. Perhaps that is what some United Nations members would wish. If Korea were given to the Soviets, nonetheless, all the so-called free nations will be in grave danger of being the next victims, one by one.

At all events, either as a result of the Indian resolution or of the communists' recent offer of peace negotiations, if they arrange a peace arrangement allowing the Chinese to remain in Korea, we have to ask all the friendly nations whose armed forces are now fighting in Korea and who do not desire to join with us in our determination to defeat aggressive communism and drive up to the Yalu River, to withdraw from Korea. Any nation which will join with us in our efforts to drive the Chinese communists out of Korean territory will be welcomed to work with us. In this we must reiterate our original announcement that we will not move one step beyond our age-old national boundary line without your request.

If it is the desire of the United States, the United States forces now in Korea may follow behind our frontlines and give us the support and coverage with planes, long-range artillery and naval vessels on both sides of the Peninsula. If, on the other hand, the United States forces should decide to withdraw entirely from Korea, they may do so.

I do hope this plan will not be in conflict with your policy, although we see very little possibility of carrying out any of your policies regarding Korea, however perfect the policies may be. Of course, this letter is confidential information to you only. To reveal our plan publicly now or later is not decided as yet. We may wait until the United Nations has come to some sory of a peace agreement.

With prayers for your health and success,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Syngman Rhee

The President
The United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

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